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NOTICES FROM THE LICK OBSERVATORY.*

PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

RESIGNATION OF PROFESSOR E. S. HOLDEN AS DIRECTOR OF THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

At a meeting of the Board of Regents of the University of California, held in San Francisco on Tuesday, October 12, 1897, Professor E. S. HOLDEN'S resignation as Director of the Lick Observatory was presented and accepted, to take effect January 1, 1898.

At the same meeting Professor J. M. SCHAEBERLE was appointed Acting Director during the absence of Dr. HOLDEN.

Professor HOLDEN'S letter was as follows:—

"LICK OBSERVATORY, University of California,
Mt. Hamilton, October 1, 1897.

To the Honorable the Board of Regents of the University of California:—

GENTLEMEN: — I beg to tender my resignation as Director of the Lick Observatory, to take effect at the expiration of my present leave of absence.

In severing my connection with an institution with which I have been intimately connected since the year 1874 (under the direction of the Regents since 1885), I wish to express my obligations to the Board, to the members of the Standing Committees on the Observatory, on Internal Administration, and on Finance, and more especially to the Chairmen of these Committees, for their support, by which alone it has been possible to bring the establishment to its present high state of efficiency.

In the summer of 1874 the President of the first Board of

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* Lick Astronomical Department of the University of California.

Lick Trustees visited Washington to consult with Professor NEWCOMB and myself upon the plans for the observatory founded by Mr. LICK. In October of that year I prepared the plans and programme upon which the Lick Observatory has been built, organized, and is now administered. A detailed memorandum on this subject may be found in the *Publications* of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, Vol. IV, page 139 (1892). The position of Director was offered to me in 1874, and accepted. The plans of the first Board of Lick Trustees were not carried out, for reasons which it is not necessary to state here.

In 1876 I became the adviser of the President of the third Board, and from that time until 1887 all the plans of the buildings were made by me, all the instruments ordered from my specifications (excepting the visual object-glass of the great telescope, with which Professor NEWCOMB was alone concerned), and most of the instruments were mounted and used by me personally during official visits to Mt. Hamilton in the years 1881, 1883, 1885, and 1886. Correspondence on file at the Lick Observatory and in the records of the Lick Trust will exhibit my share in this work.

In December, 1885, I was appointed to be President of the University of California, and Director of the Lick Observatory, and I held the former office until 1888. In June of that year the observatory was formally transferred by the Lick Trustees as the Lick Astronomical Department of the University, and from this time onward its scientific history is known to your Board.

The regular annual income of the observatory has been very small in relation to the wants of the establishment. It has been used to supply these wants so far as possible, and the whole observatory — buildings, instruments, and equipment — is now in excellent condition. Since 1888 the reservoir capacity has been doubled; the buildings have been made water-tight and much improved in many respects; the instruments have been considerably increased in number, and they have been provided with subsidiary apparatus which was lacking; the library has doubled in size; the area of the reservation has been increased by one thousand acres, and the whole establishment and equipment is far more efficient in 1897 than it was in 1888. Only those who have visited the observatory can appreciate the full force of these statements.

A considerable number of graduate students have received training here, and have been fitted for responsible positions here and elsewhere. Some 50,000 visitors have been received and cared for, and a contribution of importance to the intellectual advancement of the State has thus been made.

A very large part of the strictly scientific work of the observatory has been accomplished by virtue of subsidies received from its friends. Most of its apparatus has been presented to us outright. All of its foreign eclipse expeditions have been sent at the expense of wellwishers of the institution. The expensive plates of the Observatory Moon-Atlas, of Vol. III. of our quarto *Publications*, etc., have been provided at private cost. The names of Messrs. D. O. MILLS, C. F. CROCKER, WALTER W. LAW, of Mrs. PHŒBE HEARST, Miss CATHERINE WOLFE BRUCE, among others, are gratefully remembered in this connection. The money value of these gifts is over $47,000. Mr. EDWARD CROSSLEY, an English member of Parliament and amateur of astronomy, presented to the University in 1895 a three-foot reflecting telescope. Its performance from the year 1879 onwards has shown that it has no superior in the world at present. It is fitted to supplement the work of the three-foot refractor in an important way. This instrument was established in its place by the gifts of many citizens of California. Its dome and mounting were nearly complete in July, 1896. If it is diligently used, other gifts of like nature will come to the observatory as they are needed — and such gifts will be required if the observatory is to maintain its present standing, unless larger provision is made by the State, or unless a subsidy is received from the general government.

The observatory has published three quarto and five octavo volumes, besides an Atlas of the Moon, and two volumes printed for us by the Smithsonian Institution, and very many separate articles published in scientific journals. Some permanent provision should be made for the publication of its work.

In the years which are to come, I wish for the observatory the fullest measure of brilliant success. Its equipment, situation, and its personnel will command this, if it is adequately supported. I am proud to have been connected with the observatory from its inception, and during its early and formative period, and to have done my part towards the creation and maintenance of the spirit which has characterized its own researches and its relations to other scientific establishments throughout the world. I have given my best endeavors to these ends for twenty-three years.

I am, gentlemen,
Very respectfully and truly yours,
EDWARD S. HOLDEN."

LIST OF RECORDED EARTHQUAKES ON THE PACIFIC COAST, 1769–1897, BY EDWARD S. HOLDEN; ILLUSTRATED.

The Smithsonian Institution is about to print, in its *Miscellaneous Contributions*, a work with the above title. The data are derived from a similar list of recorded earthquakes, 1769–1888 (with a very considerable number of additions and a few corrections), which was issued by the University of California in 1888, and from the annual publications of the Lick Observatory (printed in the *American Journal of Science*, the *Publications* of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, the *Bulletins* of the U. S. Geological Survey) since that date. The annual records referred to have been compiled by Messrs. HOLDEN, KEELER, and PERRINE from observations at Mt. Hamilton, and from miscellaneous reports of earthquake shocks. They have been thoroughly sifted and revised in the present work, which is believed to contain all trustworthy data on the subject of Pacific Coast earthquakes since 1769. E. S. H.

MT. HAMILTON, September 1, 1897.

MEASURES OF THE COMPANION OF *SIRIUS*, AND OF β 883.

I have obtained measures of the companion of *Sirius* on two nights, September 23d and October 2d. On the former date the companion was readily seen for at least ten minutes after sunrise. The measures are:—

	θ_0	ρ_0	Weight.
1897.731	175°.9	3″.92	5
1897.756	174 .4	4 .04	3

Another binary star of considerable interest is β 883. It was discovered by Mr. BURNHAM in 1879, and was soon found to be in rapid motion. Dr. SEE (*Monthly Notices* R. A. S., June, 1897), in a recent investigation, found the period to be only five and a half years. If this result is even approximately correct, the star is by far the most rapid visible binary known.

I have secured three measures recently with the 36-inch